

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY REGIONAL

Exciting seasonal news from Gallaudet University Regional Center - Southwest

Early Hearing Detection
Intervention Annual
Meeting/Conference:
Jacksonville, Florida

Page 2

Cypress Ridge: Transition
Fair: Houston, TX

Youth Leadership Training:
Arkansas School for the Deaf

Page 3

Statewide Youth Leadership
Training: Colorado Springs,
CO

NOC Working Group /CEASD

FWISD: Transition Expo

Page 4

National Academic Bowl



ACADEMIC BOWL

GURC-SW Director attended the National Academic Bowl from April 5 – 8 in Washington, DC at Gallaudet University! The four winning teams from the southwest competition: New Mexico School for the Deaf, Louisiana School for the Deaf, Colorado School for the Deaf, and Jean Massieu School for the Deaf along with other four winning teams from the rest of the regions totaling to 24 teams from all over the country!

Academic Bowl has become a tradition in the deaf community across the country since 1997. The competitions are based on 3-4 players per each team with approximately 40-minute, three-round matches, the competition tests teams' knowledge in all corners of academia, from complicated mathematical equations to the name of the famous artist. For more information on academic bowl; go to website:

www.gallaudet.edu/ab

Also in this newsletter..

(P. 3) GURC Annual Meeting

(P.3) GU Charter Day

and more....

SOUTHWEST NEWS

Early Hearing Detection Intervention Annual Meeting/Conference: Jacksonville, Florida

GURC-SW Director attended this conference to do two presentations on two different topics for two different strands. For the “Family Perspective & Support” strand, the “*Shared Reading Project – The Gateway to Successful Literacy*”, which introduced an effective literacy program for deaf/hard-of-hearing children with provided tools and strategies based on fifteen principles. These principles were developed based on research studying book sharing strategies that are used when reading to deaf and hard of hearing children as well as what we are still learning about deaf and hard of hearing children’s literacy skills. This program reaches to deaf/hard-of-hearing children and their families who are most in need. According to the Shared Reading Saturdays program has proven the significant need to increase families spending time to learn how to utilize using language and read with their children. It has also been proven that participating families also successfully increase and improve communication within the family. Shared Reading Project has a played a critical role in creating a community for these parents. Through this sense of community, parents are feeling empowered about helping their deaf/hard-of-hearing children, they are advocating for them at school and gaining more information about how to improve their children’s lives. A group of Spanish and English speaking parents from across the state has expressed the need for this service. Shared Reading Project would be a phenomenal way to provide parents group to meet with different speakers invited to share pertinent information with the families. Clearly, Shared Reading Project will be a catalyst in the lives of these families as according to the National Academy of Education Commission on Reading in 1985, it has been supported that “the single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children”.

For the “Policy, Advocacy and Legislative Issues” strand, the “*Raising Awareness of the “One Size Does Not Fit All” – The Child First Campaign.*” Child First is a national campaign to ensure that the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) appropriately address the language, communication, and educational needs of deaf/hard-of-hearing children. Child First was developed and is being driven by the national organizations that advocate for the educational rights of deaf/hard-of-hearing children. At the time IDEA, (then Individualized Education for All Handicapped Children Act) was passed in 1975, many children with disabilities were precluded from going to school, either by law or because schools were not equipped to teach them. IDEA changed that by requiring states, local school districts, and schools to provide them with an individualized education. Discussions on how we, as parents/care takers, families, professionals and community, can support that include:

- Communication and language is an education and human right
- Language deprivation is disabling
- All deaf/hard-of-hearing children should have access to all interactions
- Hearing parents of deaf/hard-of-hearing children need complete, accurate information of opportunities
- Hearing parents of deaf/hard-of-hearing children should be aware of multiple pathways to learning and receive services and resources for family involvement and literacy
- IEP determines LRE
- Education progress monitoring and instructions by qualified personnel are essential component to every successful deaf/hard-of-hearing child

This workshop also had a place for dialogue on low-incidence populations; what is efficient and what is effective; address the focus of Part B and C; strategies on early access to language, academic assessment and accountability; resources and opportunities of each special school and/or center based programs has to offer; as well as advocacy strategies and tools and identifying expertise in the IEP teams and the right to qualified and/or licensed interpreters in educational settings. More information can be found here: www.ehdi.org

SOUTHWEST NEWS

Cypress Ridge High School Transition Fair: Houston, Texas

On March 8, 2014, JoAnn Benfield, the center's hourly employee, represented GURC-SW at the Cypress Ridge High School's Transition Fair in Houston, Texas. The transition fair consisted of several booths with agencies, colleges, and companies that provide information on their services available to deaf and hard of hearing students. Approximately 10-20 families attended this transition fair.

GURC Annual Meeting

All GURC Directors attended the annual meeting few days before the National Academic Bowl kicked off. Our schedules were booked with several meetings with different units within Gallaudet University such as Enrollment, Marketing and Public Relations, and Clerc Center.

Youth Leadership Training: Little Rock, Arkansas

On March 19, 2014, GURC-SW sponsored and held 6-hour youth leadership training at Arkansas School for the Deaf from 3pm – 9pm with several breaks and dinner in between. This training is one of a kind because the schedule of the training is after school and there were 38 students who participated the youth leadership training, which is the largest number of students ever with remarkable impact and outcome of the training on each student.

GU 150th Charter Day

On April 8, 2014, GURC-SW Director was fortunate to be part of the Charter's Day celebration at Gallaudet University. This designated day of April 8th was exactly 150 years to the day that President Abraham Lincoln signed our Charter. We celebrated the occasion on campus with departments and student groups with exhibits and presentations, the Gallaudet University Museum also had a grand opening with the Deaf Studies Digital Journal that launched a special issue – "*Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond: The Past, Present and Future*". Along with a U.S. Postal Service Pictorial Postmark Cancellation in honor of the Gallaudet University Sesquicentennial that became available to all of us. There was all campus photo taken to record this special one-in-150-years day as part of our deaf history! For more information on Gallaudet University's 150th Anniversary, please go to: www.gallaudet.edu/150

SOUTHWEST NEWS

Colorado Springs, CO Youth Leadership Training: Statewide

On April 9 – 10, GURC-SW sponsored and held 2-day of the statewide youth leadership training at Colorado School for the Deaf with 12 high school students.

CEASD

GURC – SW Director attended the CEASD conference where there were a lot of critical conversations and discussions on how we continue to commit and promote of excellence within a continuum of equitable education opportunities for children and adults who are deaf/hard-of-hearing. CEASD continue to serve as an advocate for the deaf/hard-of-hearing with governmental bodies concerned with the establishment of educational policy and the implementation of federal legislation. Topics range from academic rigor to students expectations to a panel discussion with CEASD and Option Schools on collaboration strategies between both organizations. More information can be found on website: www.ceasd.org

National Outreach Conference Working Group

GURC-SW Director attended the Working Group at the National Outreach Conference (NOC) – “*Working Smarter by Working Together*” on April 25 – the day before the Conference of Education Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD). There were three parts of the working group. The first part was discussing the current indicators of the CEASD Accreditation that reflects outreach efforts. The second part was discussing the current outreach structure and how our schools and programs define outreach as well as our goals, success and challenge stories in small group discussions. The last part was to discuss the gaps in the outreach work and drafting up recommendations to bring to the CEASD Board for expansion of outreach indicators. More information on NOC 2015 can be found here: www.nationaloutreachconference.org

FWISD Transitional Expo “Higher Heights”: Fort Worth, TX

Libby Allen GURC Administrative Assistant attended the Fort Worth ISD Regional Day School Program Expo on April 25, 2014. The purpose of the fair is to provide information to students, parents, and staff members who work with deaf or hard of hearing students. Transition is a process that helps students develop plans to prepare for life after graduation. Transition planning, which begins at age 14, might include preparing for postsecondary education, vocational training, supported employment, independent living and community participation. There were approximately 40 students at this expo.

SOUTHWEST NEWS



Early Hearing Detection Intervention Annual Meeting/Conference: Jacksonville, Florida



Statewide Colorado: Youth Leadership Training

Youth Leadership Training:
Arkansas School for the Deaf

UPCOMING: SOUTHWEST NEWS



StreetLeverage Live!
Round Rock, TX
May 1-4, 2014



National Association of the
Deaf Conference
Atlanta, GA
July 1-5, 2014

150 YEARS
1864 - 2014



Gallaudet University
150th Anniversary
Washington, DC
July 9-13, 2014



Statewide Conference of
the Education of the Deaf
San Antonio, TX
July 20-23, 2014




DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

July 15-23, 2014

Do you know what you'd like to be doing 10, 20, 30 years from now? Discover Your Future this summer at Gallaudet!

- Tons of popular team-building activities develop leadership and teamwork.
- Self-assessment activities reveal more about your strengths and weaknesses, potential careers, values, and interests.
- Develop a mini portfolio that you can use with your parents, school counselors, and potential employers.

For deaf and hard of hearing students currently in grades 9 through 11.

Bonus: All work and no play? Not here! Explore the world-famous museums and monuments in Washington, D.C., swim and shop 'til you drop at Rehoboth Beach — and more!

See you this summer!

For more information about summer youth programs at Gallaudet, including registration, course descriptions, fees, and scholarships, visit youthprograms.gallaudet.edu.

SUMMER PROGRAMS
800 Florida Avenue, NE • Washington, DC 20002

202-468-7272 (voice) • 202-210-2140 (tty)
www.gallaudet.edu




IMMERSE INTO ASL!

New to American Sign Language? Already know a little and want to learn more? Immerse into ASL! at Gallaudet and watch the words flow!

- Four different course options match your current skill level, from beginner to advanced.
- Learn alongside fellow signers from all over the country.
- Get tons of neat information about Deaf Culture and deaf history.
- Attend class during the day and practice nonstop while you sightsee in Washington, D.C., attend social events, and more!

Session 1:
July 15-23, 2014

Session 2:
July 26-August 3, 2014

For deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing students currently in grades 9 through 11.

Bonus: All work and no play? Not here! Explore the world-famous museums and monuments in Washington, D.C., swim and shop 'til you drop at Rehoboth Beach, and more!

See you this summer!

For more information about summer youth programs at Gallaudet, including registration, course descriptions, fees, and scholarships, visit youthprograms.gallaudet.edu.

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YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM: EXPLORING THE SCIENCES

July 26-August 3, 2014

Got science on the brain? Do you like chemistry? Marine biology? Underwater robotics? Then join four deaf and hard of hearing Gallaudet science professors this summer for our new **Young Scholars Program: Exploring the Sciences!**

- Perform hands-on chemistry experiments.
- Explore the Anacostia River, "The Forgotten River", and research the health of its ecosystem.
- Build a remote operated underwater vehicle and score points for your team in a pool competition.
- Perform experiments on the food you eat every day.

For deaf and hard of hearing students currently in grades 9 through 11.

Bonus: All work and no play? Not here! Explore the world-famous museums and monuments in Washington, D.C., swim and shop 'til you drop at Rehoboth Beach, and more!

Young Scholars Program: Exploring the Sciences is limited to **10 participants**.

SIGN UP TODAY! Register at youthprograms.gallaudet.edu

See you this summer!

For more information about summer youth programs at Gallaudet, including registration, course descriptions, fees, and scholarships, visit youthprograms.gallaudet.edu.

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YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM: BIZGENIUS

July 26-August 3, 2014

Interested in owning your own business someday? Want some hands-on experience in a business environment? Then join us this summer for our new **Young Scholars Program: BizGenius!**

Gain real world experience in product development, marketing, planning, and financial management.

Participate in a fun business competition with prizes.

Gain practical knowledge and skills you'll need to successfully establish your own business.

For deaf and hard of hearing students currently in grades 9 through 11.

Bonus: All work and no play? Not here! Explore the world-famous museums and monuments in Washington, D.C., swim and shop until you drop at Rehoboth Beach, DE, and much more!

Young Scholars Program: BizGenius is limited to **15 participants**.

SIGN UP TODAY! Register at youthprograms.gallaudet.edu

See you this summer!

For more information about summer youth programs at Gallaudet, including registration, course descriptions, fees, and scholarships, visit youthprograms.gallaudet.edu.

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VL2 INFORMATION & RESOURCES

RESEARCH BRIEF: THE IMPORTANCE OF SPELLING FOR READING

RESEARCH BRIEF: ADVANTAGES OF EARLY VISUAL LANGUAGE

RESEARCH BRIEF: VISUAL ATTENTION AND DEAFNESS

RESEARCH BRIEF: READING RESEARCH & DEAF CHILDREN

RESEARCH BRIEF: GAZE AND JOINT ATTENTION

RESEARCH BRIEF: THE IMPLICATIONS OF BILINGUAL APPROACHES FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANTS

RESEARCH BRIEF: THE BENEFITS OF BILINGUALISM

RESEARCH BRIEF: PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN ASL ACQUISITION

visualize

VL2 STORYBOOK APPS

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY VISUAL LANGUAGE AND VISUAL LEARNING

Visual Language and Visual Learning (VL2) is a Science of Learning Center (SLC) on Visual Language and Visual Learning, one of six SLCs funded by the National Science Foundation. The purpose of VL2 is to gain a greater understanding of the biological, cognitive, linguistic, sociocultural and pedagogical conditions that influence the acquisition of language and knowledge through visual modality. For more information on VL2, research briefs, newsletter, parent package life stories storybook apps, please go to this link: vl2.gallaudet.edu.

SOUTHEWEST NEWS



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